

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

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CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3677

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: ODUBER ANNOUNCES NEW DEVELOPMENTAL ADVISER
SLOT WITH MINISTERIAL RANK

GUATEMALA FOR ROCAP

1. PRESIDENT ODUBER HAS ELEVATED HIS CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER, DR. FERNANDO NARANJO, TO A NEWLY CREATED CABINET LEVEL POSITION, AS PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER FOR DEVELOPMENTAL AFFAIRS. NARANJO HAS BEEN TASKED BY THE PRESIDENT WITH CONSOLIDATING AND COORDINATING PROGRAMS RELATING TO BOTH DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC MATTERS CURRENTLY BEING PROGRAMMED IN VARIOUS MINISTRIES.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT NO NEW BUREAUCRATIC ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN CREATED, AND THAT EXISTING ENTITIES WILL PROVIDE NARANJO ASSISTANCE AS NEEDED. NARANJO CAN THUS BE EXPECTED TO PERFORM THE ROLE OF AN OVERSEER; EXISTING BUREAUCRACIES WILL

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CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS IN THE

DEVELOPMENTAL AREA, BUT UNDER NARANJO'S DIRECTION.
NARANJO DESCRIBED HIS NEW JOB PRIVATELY TO EMBOFF AS
A TYPE OF "ECONOMIC CZAR."

3. RODOLFO QUIROS GUARDIA, NARANJO'S DEPUTY IN OFFICE
OR COORDINATOR GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF THE PRESIDENCY,
HAS BEEN NAMED TO SUCCEED NARANJO. ACCORDING TO
QUIROS, NARANJO AND HIS TECHNICAL ADVISERS WILL
COORDINATE ECONOMIC POLICY AND MONEY MATTERS; QUIROS'
OFFICE WILL LOOK AFTER PROGRAMS IN THE SOCIAL,
EDUCATIONAL, HEALTH, AND PRODUCTIVITY ARENAS.

4. AT SAME TIME, VICE PRESIDENT CASTILLO ANNOUNCED
THAT AN ECONOMIC COUNCIL COMPOSED OF THE PRESIDENT;
VICE PRESIDENT; MINISTERS OF FINANCE, ECONOMICS,
PLANNING, LABOR, AGRICULTURE; CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT;
AND THE NEW DEVELOPMENT POSITION WOULD BE FORMED SHORTLY.

5. COMMENT: ODUBER'S MOVE APPEARS TO BE YET ANOTHER
ATTEMPT TO HIT UPON THE BUREAUCRATIC FORMULA FOR GETTING
THE DEFINITIVE HANDLE ON ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENTAL
AFFAIRS. ALTHOUGH MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THIS
AREA SINCE ODUBER TOOK OFFICE, THE ANNOUNCED CHANGE IS
RECOGNITION THAT MUCH STILL HAS TO BE DONE. IN THEORY,
MAKING HIS NEW JOB A CABINET LEVEL POSITION WILL GIVE
NARANJO THE BUREAUCRATIC CLOUT HE APPARENTLY LACKED IN
HIS PREVIOUS ROLE AS ECONOMIC ADVISER.
TODMAN

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